



September 4, 2016

Dear Teacher,

This week we start again our curriculum for the year. We begin with Hannah and Samuel, a story of a mother, a son, and God's promises. The story shows us the power of prayer, God's provision for the hurting, and God's intolerance of sin. Teachers as you tell the story it may prove helpful to have the children act out the story; the story has some simple actions (prayer, crying, giving back, sleeping, listening). Or if you would like to use the story in the curriculum or in one of the Children's Bibles below to tell the story, the children love that as well.

We encourage all classrooms to engage with the story from the options provided in class. Teachers, tell the story using any of the provided helps (Vos, Jesus Story Book Bible, Gospel Story Book Bible or printed Handout). If you would like, read the selected Scripture passages aloud in class, discuss or explain what the passages mean, and use the questions below to help guide the discussion. Also, use time in class to teach the Scripture Memory and the Catechism Questions

Lesson: *Judges:* Hannah & Samuel

Lesson Objective: To communicate to children that God always keeps His promises despite circumstances and even our inability to trust Him. God wants us to trust Him and obey His commands.

Scripture: 1 Samuel 1-4

Story: Vos Children's Bible, Chapter 65 (Pages 130-132)

Additional Teaching Help: Gospel Story Book Bible, Pages 102-105; Beginner's Bible, Pages 160-168.

Teaching Points:

- God's promises do not change despite circumstances, people and even our inability to believe them. God keeps his promises even when we do not trust Him or follow His commands.
- God was with His people, the Israelites, and He never left them.
- God's people lived in the Promised Land among people who did not love nor worship God.
- Hannah and Elkanah were faithful followers of God. They loved and obeyed God. Hannah was barren for a very long time.
- In the midst of her pain, Hannah cried out for a child to the Lord continually. Hannah trusted that God was good no matter if she had a child or not.
- God finally answered Hannah's prayer through His servant and the priest of Israel, Eli.
- Hannah, knowing how much she had been given, offered Samuel, her son, back to God to serve in the temple. God seeing this sacrifice gave Hannah more children.
- Eli's sons were disobedient and irreverent towards God and the duties of serving in the priesthood. Because of this, God judged Eli and his two sons.
- God told Samuel all of this; God looked upon Samuel with favor.

Preschool Ministry – Morning Overview

For the Sunday Schedule, please see “Sunday Schedule for Preschool” found in Handbook on the teacher’s table or on the wall above the table.

First Hour

Cherub Church

- Kindergarten/4’s – 9:35-10:00 (Classroom’s: 162, 163, 121, 123, 124)
- 3’s – 10:05-10:30 (Classroom’s: 166, 165, 164)

Craft: Praying Hands

Supplies: Praying Hands, verse sticker, crayons/markers

Instructions: Place verse sticker in center of hands, have children color/decorate hands.



Snack

Second Hour

Craft: God is our Rock

Supplies: White piece of paper, gray construction paper, tape, crayons/markers

Instructions: Crumple white paper into a ball, cover with gray construction paper to form a rock, draw a cross in the center of the rock.



Story: *Judges:* Hannah & Samuel

1. **PRAY** for your time and any requests the children may have.
2. **ASK** the Transition Question: Boys and girls, let’s play the game “Simon Says.” (Teacher you may need to explain the way the game is played). The point of the game is to follow instructions, correct? Well today we learn about a boy who followed instructions very well, and we learn about two brothers who did not.
3. **TELL** the Story. When applicable or desired, use the Vos Children’s Bible, the Jesus StoryBook Bible, the Beginner’s Bible, or the story below to aid in telling the story.
4. **REVIEW** the questions to help children understand the story.

Singing

Scripture Memory (1 Samuel 2:2)

Catechism Questions (1-11)

Optional Activities

Questions for Review

Questions for Younger Children:

- Who was the lady in our story who was sad?
- Why was she so sad?
- What did the Lord give Hannah?
- What was the baby boy’s name?
- Does God always give us everything we want?
- What was the boy’s name who lived in the Lord’s house with Eli?
- Who else lived there?
- When Samuel was in bed, who did he think was calling Him?

Questions for Older Children:

- When Hannah was very sad, whom did she talk with?
- Why did Eli think Hannah was behaving strangely?
- When Hannah was joyful and God had given her Samuel, whom did she talk with?
- How does the Bible say Eli's sons felt about the Lord?
- What sin did Eli commit?
- What did the Lord tell Samuel?

Scripture Memory for September:

"There is no one holy like the Lord. There is no God but you. There is no Rock like our God." 1 Samuel 2:2

Catechism Questions:

- Question 1 – Who made you? *God*
- Question 2 – What else did God make? *God made all things.*
- Question 3 – Why did God make you and all things? *For his own glory.*
- Question 4 – How can you glorify God? *By loving him and doing what he commands.*
- Question 5 – Why are you to glorify God? *Because he made me and takes care of me.*
- Question 6 – Is there more than one true God? *No. There is only one true God.*
- Question 7 – In how many persons does this One God exist? *In three persons.*
- Question 8 – Who are they? *Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.*
- Question 9 – What is God? *God is a Spirit and does not have a body like men.*
- Question 10 – Where is God? *God is everywhere.*
- Question 11 -- Can you see God? *No; I cannot see God, but He can always see me.*

Story

Today our story is about a mother and a son. In our story we learn of how God keeps His promises, but we also learn about how powerful prayer can be and that God does not like sin at all! Let's find out more about this mom and son.

Hannah

Hannah is mentioned at the very beginning of the book called 1 Samuel. Hannah had a husband who loved her very much and his name was Elkanah (**pronunciation:** elk-a-nah). They both loved God. The Bible says they would travel every year from their town to another town called Shiloh to worship the Lord. Hannah and Elkanah loved the Lord, but they were sad, especially Hannah. Hannah was sad because God had not given her a baby—and a baby is something Hannah really wanted. In those days it was very important for ladies to have babies. The Bible says that other ladies who did have babies would make fun of Hannah because she didn't have one. It must have been very hard for Hannah to hear such unkind words.

It's hard when we ask God to give us something and He doesn't give us what we ask when we ask for it. The Bible says God's thoughts are higher than our thoughts. That means God is much wiser and smarter than we are. He knows everything which includes what we really need and when we need it. So when God doesn't give us what we want, we have to trust God that He knows what is best even if we don't understand why.

Hannah did trust God, but she was still sad. Do you know what Hannah did with her sadness and questions? She talked to the Lord about it. One day after Hannah and her husband had finished eating a meal, the Bible says that Hannah went to the house of the Lord. There she cried out to the Lord for help. "Lord of heaven's armies, see how bad I feel. Remember me! Don't forget me. If you will give me a son, I will give him back to you all his life. And no

one will ever use a razor to cut his hair.” Hannah prayed a lot for a son, and each time there was a priest who noticed Hannah and how often she prayed. The priest’s name was Eli. Hannah would pray silently in her heart; her lips would move but no sound would come out (demonstrate for the kids). Eli thought she was just being silly. “No”, Hannah said, “I am a woman who is very troubled. I was telling the Lord about all my problems. I have been praying because of my many troubles and much sadness.” When Eli saw how sad Hannah was, he spoke kind words to her. “Go in peace, and may the God of Israel give to you what you have asked.” Those were important words and when he said those words, the Bible says that Hannah went her way and her face was no longer sad. The next day, she and her husband, Elkanah, worshipped the Lord and then they left Shiloh and returned to their home. And what do you think happened next? God gave Hannah a baby boy! Hannah and Elkanah named him Samuel which means “I asked the Lord for him.”

Soon after Samuel was born, Elkanah returned to Shiloh to worship the Lord. Hannah and Samuel did not go, but stayed home. As time passed and Samuel got a little older, probably your age, he would go with his mom and dad to the house of the Lord in Shiloh. One particular time when they went to worship, Hannah found the old priest Eli. Hannah said to Eli, “I am the woman who stood here a few years ago praying to the Lord. I prayed for this child, and the Lord has given me what I asked of him. So now I give him to the Lord. For his whole life he will be given over for the Lord.” And then, in the Bible, Hannah prayed beautiful words that praised God: “There is no one beside you” and “the Lord lift the needy and seats them with princes.”

Hophni and Phinehas

Eli was a priest which meant he was a leader in God’s house. He was a very important man with a very important job. He taught God’s people how to worship God. That’s very important you know. The people didn’t have a Bible like we do now. God chose leaders who would teach the people. You should know that Eli was a very good man, but Eli had a problem. Eli’s problem was his two sons and their names were Hophni and Phinehas. Eli’s sons were not good men, in fact the Bible says they were wicked men. The Bible says, “They had no regard for the Lord.” That means that they did not love God or obey God. It’s very dangerous when a person does not regard the Lord.

God had written in his law exactly the way men and women should worship Him. He explained how offerings should be given. But what God had said in his law didn’t matter to Hophni and Phinehas. They did exactly what they wanted to do. And that was because of what I just told you, “They had no regard for the Lord.” How unfortunate! Righteous Eli had to deal with two wicked sons. You should also know that Hophni and Phinehas helped their father lead God’s people in worship. This was a very sad thing for God’s people.

Samuel

Samuel had a very special job and it was to help Eli. Samuel served the Lord in God’s house. The Bible says he wore a linen robe. And it was a very special robe too. You see every year his mother, Hannah, would make him a little robe and take it to him in Shiloh. (Maybe she needed to do that every year because he was growing and he would need a bigger one!) Hannah would go to Shiloh to God’s house to see her little boy – the little boy she had prayed for, the little boy who God had given her. Samuel was a very special little boy and God had a very special work for him. God had planned that Samuel would be the leader in Israel. God knew his people needed a leader who loved God and so He chose Samuel and placed him there in God’s house to learn.

Eli

Now Eli was growing older. The Bible says his eyes were becoming so weak he could barely see. And those boys of his, Hophni and Phinehas, well they were also getting into trouble and doing the wrong things. People in the city were telling Eli all about it. Eli would ask his son’s, “Why do you do such wicked things? I hear from all the people about the wicked deeds you do.” Eli warned his sons about doing wicked things. But the Bible says Hophni and Phinehas did not listen to their father’s words. And Eli did something very wrong as well – you see Eli allowed his sons to continue in their sin. He should have stopped them but instead he watched as Hophni and Phinehas

continued to break God's laws. Samuel, though, continued to obey and love God and the Bible says he "grew in favor with the Lord and with men." That means Samuel was growing up; he was also learning more and more about the Lord, how to worship Him and how to live a life pleasing to Him. All of this became very clear one special night, the night the Lord called Samuel.

The Lord Calls Samuel

It was late one night and Eli was lying down in his usual place sleeping. Samuel was also lying down in the temple of the Lord and not too far from a lamp that was burning. Suddenly Samuel heard a voice. It was the Lord calling him but Samuel thought it was Eli. Samuel answered, "Here I am." And he ran to Eli and said, "Here I am; you called me." But Eli said, "I did not call you, go back and lie down." So Samuel returned to his bed to rest. Again the Lord called, "Samuel!" And Samuel got up again and went to Eli and said, "Here I am; you called me." "My son", Eli said, "I did not call you; go back and lie down." The Bible says that Samuel had never heard the voice of the Lord before.

The Lord called Samuel a third time and again Samuel got up from his bed and went to Eli. "Here I am; you called me." Now Eli was beginning to understand that it was the Lord who was calling little Samuel. "Go and lie down, and if he calls you again, say, 'Speak Lord, for your servant is listening.'" So Samuel went back to the same place and waited to hear the voice again. The Bible says the Lord came and stood there, calling as He had the other times, "Samuel! Samuel!" This time Samuel said the words Eli had told him, "Speak, for your servant is listening." The message the Lord gave Samuel that night was a very serious one with some very important things. The Lord told Samuel that Eli knew about the sin of his sons but did not stop them. He told Samuel that Eli's sons would be punished for the wicked things they had done.

After the Lord finished speaking, Samuel lay down until morning. Once morning came Samuel opened the doors of the house of the Lord and waited to see Eli. Samuel was nervous and afraid to tell Eli what God had told him the night before. The Bible says Eli called him and said, "Samuel, my son." "Here I am", said Samuel. "What was it that the Lord said to you?" Eli asked. "Do not hide it from me." So Samuel told Eli everything, hiding nothing from him. Samuel told Eli the sad news about his sons. Then Eli said, "He is the Lord; let him do what is good in His eyes." This story in the Bible ends by saying, "The Lord was with Samuel as he grew up and all of Israel understood that Samuel was a prophet of the Lord. And the Lord continued to appear in Shiloh, and there to Samuel through His word."